

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BAGHDA 01132 311039Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /049 W
-----020167 010137Z /12
R 310831Z MAY 78
FM USINT BAGHDAD
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6259
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY TUNIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BAGHDAD 1132

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: PDIP, PINR, IZ, TS
SUBJ:RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN JORDAN AND TUNISIA

1. TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR TO IRAQ, MOHAMMED AL-HABIB ABBES, TOLD PRINCIPAL OFFICER THAT HE WOULD SOON BE TRANSFERRED TO AMMAN TO REOPEN THE TUNISIAN EMBASSY AFTER A PROLONGED BREAK IN RELATIONS. SINCE ABBES CAREFULLY EXPLAINED THAT HE PROVIDED THIS INFORMATION IN CONFIDENCE, ADDRESSEES SHOULD PROTECT HIM AS SOURCES.

2. ABBES HAS BEEN A VERY CONGENIAL AND FRIENDLY MEMBER OF LOCAL DIPLOMATIC CORPS. DURING A DIFFICULT PERIOD OF IRAQI-TUNISIAN RELATIONS HE PROVED TO BE A SHREWD AND OBJECTIVE ANALYST OF POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS. DESPITE HIS VERY WEAK ENGLISH AND OCCASIONAL SURPRISING LAPSES IN HIS FRENCH, HE IS A USEFUL CONTACT FOR AMERICAN DIPLOMATS.

3. ABBES TRAINED FOR LAW BUT WAS UNABLE TO COMPLETE HIS DOCTORAL THESIS BEFORE ENTERING THE TUNISIAN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE. HE IS OF SLIGHT BUILD AND WALKS WITH A SEVERE LIMP, FACTORS WHICH ADD TO A MODEST AND SOFTSPOKEN DEMEANOR.

4. MRS. ABBES IS A HIGHLY INTELLIGENT AND ARTICULATE WOMAN (IN ENGLISH AS WELL AS FRENCH) WHO IS SELDOM
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PAGE 02 BAGHDA 01132 311039Z

AT POST DUE TO HER POSITION AS AN INSPECTOR IN THE TUNISIAN MINISTRY OF EDUCATION. SHE VISITED THE UNITED STATES AT ONE POINT ON AN EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM. AMBASSADOR AND MRS. ABBES HAVE A TEENAGE DAUGHTER.
PECK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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